

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink tank comprising:
an ink containing portion for containing ink;
an ink lead-out portion for leading out ink in
5 said ink containing portion to the outside; and
an electrode inlet portion for inletting an
electrode into said ink containing portion, said
electrode inlet portion being different from said ink
lead-out portion,
10 wherein said ink lead-out portion and said
electrode inlet portion are connected through a
conductive member.
2. An ink tank according to Claim 1, wherein
15 said conductive member is a film having conductive
substance coated therefor.
3. An ink tank according to Claim 2, wherein
said ink lead-out portion and said electrode inlet
20 portion are substantially sealed by said film.
4. An ink tank according to Claim 2, wherein for
said ink lead-out portion and said electrode inlet
portion, an ink absorbing member are arranged to be
25 in contact with said film but not directly in contact
with ink in said ink containing portion.

5. An ink jet printer capable of mounting the ink tank according to Claim 1 comprising:

a conductive ink lead-out member to be inserted into said ink lead-out portion;

5 an electrode to be inserted into said electrode inlet portion; and

a circuit portion for applying voltage between said ink lead-out member and said electrode and for measuring an electric current in a route,

10 wherein the electric current measured by said circuit portion changes in accordance with the presence and absence of ink in said ink tank, and the attachment and detachment of ink tank to and from said ink jet printer.

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6. An ink jet printer according to Claim 5, wherein said ink lead-out member is a hollow needle-type metallic member.

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